



# Is it Good for a Christian to Listen to Secular Music?

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In a world where music is omnipresent, Christians face a crucial question: is it good to listen to secular music? This inquiry is significant given the profound impact music can have on our thoughts, emotions, and spiritual well-being. To address this, we must consider what the Bible says about the influence of what we consume, the content of secular music, and its alignment with Christian values.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of guarding our hearts and minds. [Proverbs 4:23](#) states, "*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.*" This principle can be applied to the music we listen to. Music, with its rhythm, lyrics, and melodies, has the power to influence our thoughts and emotions. When we listen to music, we are allowing it to enter our hearts and minds, potentially shaping our attitudes and actions.

[Philippians 4:8](#) further instructs us, "*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.*" Secular music, which often focuses on themes contrary to biblical teachings, can distract us from meditating on what is good and holy.

Music is a potent medium that can shape our worldview and influence our behavior. This effect can be both positive and negative, depending on the nature of the music we consume. For example, research has shown that music can evoke powerful emotional responses and even alter our mood and perceptions. Therefore, as Christians, it is essential to be discerning about the type of music we listen to and the messages it conveys.

Secular music spans a broad spectrum of genres and messages. While some songs may contain uplifting and positive messages, many others promote values and behaviors that contradict Christian principles. Lyrics that glorify violence, sexual immorality, substance abuse, and materialism can negatively impact a believer's spiritual journey

[Ephesians 5:19](#) encourages us to "*speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.*" This verse highlights the importance of music that edifies and glorifies God. Music that celebrates sinful behavior does not align with this directive and can lead believers astray.

Consider the messages prevalent in many popular songs today. Themes of hedonism, rebellion, and self-indulgence are common. These messages can subtly influence listeners' attitudes and behaviors, leading them away from the teachings of Christ. For instance, songs that normalize promiscuity and drug use can desensitize listeners to these behaviors, making them seem acceptable or even desirable. Furthermore, the repetitive nature of music means that the messages it conveys can become deeply ingrained in our minds. As we repeatedly listen to songs with negative or sinful messages, these messages can shape our thoughts and actions, often without us even realizing it. Therefore, it is crucial to be vigilant about the content of the music we consume.

Christians are called to live lives that reflect the character of Christ. [Romans 12:2](#) advises, "*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*" Secular music, often rooted in worldly values, can make it challenging to maintain this transformation and discern God's will. The Christian life is one of continual transformation and renewal. As we grow in our faith, we should strive to align every aspect of our lives with the teachings of Christ. This includes our musical choices. When we listen to music that reflects worldly values, we risk conforming to those values instead of being transformed by God's truth.

Furthermore, [1 Corinthians 10:31](#) instructs, "*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.*" This principle should guide our choices, including the music we listen to. If secular music does not glorify God or support our spiritual growth, we should reconsider its place in our lives. It is also essential to consider the impact our musical choices have on our witness to others. As Christians, we are called to be salt and light in the world ([Matthew 5:13-16](#)). Our actions, including the music we listen to, should reflect the love and truth of Christ. When we choose to listen to music that honors God, we set a positive example for others and demonstrate our commitment to living out our faith in every area of our lives.

In today's digital age, access to music is easier than ever. Streaming services, social media, and online platforms offer an abundance of secular music. This accessibility can be a temptation, especially for younger Christians. It is essential to be discerning and intentional about the music we choose.

The music industry is vast and diverse, with countless artists and genres to explore. While this variety offers many opportunities to discover new and exciting music, it also presents challenges. The sheer volume of available music can make it difficult to discern what is beneficial for our spiritual well-being and what is not.

Additionally, the influence of popular culture and peer pressure can make it challenging to resist the allure of secular music. Many young people feel pressured to conform to the musical tastes of their peers, even if those tastes do not align with their values. This is why it is crucial for Christian communities to provide support and encouragement to one another in making wise musical choices.

Christian artists and worship music provide an alternative that aligns with biblical values. Many contemporary Christian songs address relevant issues, offer encouragement, and lead listeners into worship. Choosing to fill our minds with music that honors God can strengthen our faith and draw us closer to Him.

Christian music is not only a safe alternative to secular music; it can also be a powerful tool for spiritual growth. Worship songs and hymns can help us to focus our minds on God, meditate on His word, and experience His presence in a profound way. Additionally, many Christian songs address real-life issues from a biblical perspective, offering hope and encouragement to those who listen.

Moreover, the Christian music industry has grown significantly in recent years, offering a wide range of styles and genres to suit different tastes. Whether you enjoy contemporary worship, gospel, Christian rock, or hip-hop, there is likely a Christian artist or band that resonates with you. By exploring and supporting Christian music, we can find joy and inspiration while staying true to our faith.

## Practical Steps for Discernment

Given the potential impact of secular music on our spiritual lives, it is important to develop a strategy for discernment. Here are some practical steps to help you make wise musical choices:

- Evaluate the Lyrics:** Pay attention to the lyrics of the songs you listen to. Do they promote values that align with biblical teachings? Are they edifying and uplifting, or do they glorify sinful behavior?
- Consider the Artist's Message:** Research the artists you listen to. What do they stand for? Do their lives and messages reflect Christian values, or do they promote a lifestyle contrary to your faith?
- Seek Godly Counsel:** Talk to trusted Christian friends, mentors, or pastors about your musical choices. They can offer valuable insights and guidance.
- Pray for Discernment:** Ask God to give you wisdom and discernment in your musical choices. [James 1:5](#) reminds us, "*If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.*"
- Create a Playlist of Edifying Music:** Curate a playlist of Christian songs and artists that inspire and encourage you. This can be a helpful resource when you need uplifting music that aligns with your faith.

In conclusion, while not all secular music is inherently bad, it is crucial for Christians to evaluate its content and influence. Music has a profound impact on our hearts and minds, and we must be mindful of what we allow into our lives. By choosing music that aligns with Christian values and glorifies God, we can protect our spiritual well-being and continue to grow in our faith. As we navigate our musical choices, let us remember the wisdom of [Psalm 101:3](#), "*I will not look with approval on anything that is vile. I hate what faithless people do; I will have no part in it.*" May we strive to fill our lives with what is pure, noble, and praiseworthy, always seeking to honor God in all we do. Ultimately, the question of whether it is good for a Christian to listen to secular music is a personal one that requires thoughtful consideration and prayer. By seeking God's guidance and being intentional about our musical choices, we can ensure that the music we listen to supports our spiritual growth and glorifies our Heavenly Father.

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